

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of authenticating an audio-visual signal comprising:

generating a signature from a first physical region of a plurality of physical regions of the audio-visual signal;

embedding of a said signature generated for at least a first region of said audio-visual signal by spreading bits of said signature over across a physical portion of said audio-visual signal without subdividing the signature, said physical portion being larger than said first physical region.

2. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method according to claim 1 whereby said physical portion is significantly larger than said first physical region.

3. (Currently amended) A-The method according to claim 1 whereby said signature is embedded as a watermark.

4. (Currently amended) A-The method according to claim 3 whereby the watermark is a spread spectrum watermark.

5. (Currently amended) A-The method according to claim 3 whereby the watermark is embedded according to the best trade-off between payload size of said audio-visual signal, robustness of said watermark and visibility of said watermark.

6. (Currently amended) A-The method according to claim 1 whereby each signature bit is embedded multiple times in different locations within said physical portion.

7. (Currently amended) A-The method according to claim 1 whereby spreading said signature bits comprises decomposing said signature bits to multiple areas or a single large area within said physical portion such that information needs to be extracted from said multiple areas or said single large area within said physical

portion, in order to evaluate the original signature bits.

8. (Currently amended) A-The method according to claim 7 whereby said embedding spreads each signature bit over the whole audio-visual signal.

9. (Currently amended) A-The method according to claim 1 whereby said signature comprises combined signature bits for a plurality of regions of said audio-visual signal.

10. (Currently amended) A-The method according to claim 1 whereby the location of said physical portion has no fixed relationship to said first physical region.

11. (Currently amended) An apparatus for authenticating an audio-visual signal comprising:

a means for generating a signature from a first physical region of a plurality of physical regions of the audio-visual signal;

a means for embedding a-said signature in-an-audio-visual

~~signal according to the method of claim 1 comprising a means for generating a signature, said signature being generated for at least a first region of said audio-visual signal without subdividing the signature, and a means for embedding said signature in said audio-visual signal,~~ whereby said signature is spread over across a physical portion of said audio-visual signal, ~~said portion being~~ larger than said first physical region.

12. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium having a plurality of computer-executable instructions for performing the ~~method according to claim 1 authenticating an audio-visual signal,~~ the computer-executable instructions comprising

a first program module generating instructions for a computer for generating a signature, said signature being generated ~~for from~~ at least a first physical region of a plurality of physical regions of said audio-visual signal, and

a second program module for generating instructions for a computer for embedding said signature in said audio-visual signal, whereby said signature is spread over across a physical portion of said audio-visual signal without subdividing the signature, said

physical portion being larger than said first physical region.

13. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 11,  
wherein said apparatus is one of ~~Use of the method according to~~  
~~claim 1 in a surveillance camera, or a security camera, or a~~  
digital image camera, ~~or a~~ digital video camera, ~~or and~~ a medical  
imaging system.